



# **INDIAN COUNTRY DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN TRAINING**

*A COMMUNITY AWARENESS TRAINING*

*Jacque Gencarelle, 360 Community Outreach Specialist  
Drug Enforcement Agency*

# Who Am I?



- Navajo/Chiricahua Apache
- Mother of four
- Community Development for rural & tribal communities
- Prevention Advocate



# Acknowledgements



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- The opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.
- References to specific companies, products, or services should not be considered an endorsement of the product by the author(s) or the U.S. Department of Justice. Rather, the references are illustrations to supplement discussion of the issues.
- This project is supported by the federal Children's Justice Act (CJA) dollars, CFDA #93.643, as authorized by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Sponsored by The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and the State of Wyoming.



CRCPI



CDPS

Division of Criminal Justice

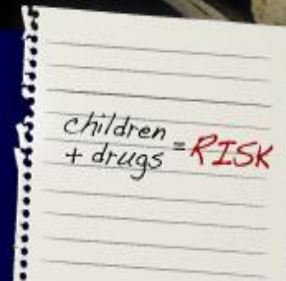
*Regional Community Policing Institute*

# The DEC Mission



Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN



**National DEC's mission is to change the status quo by empowering practitioners to identify and respond to children living in dangerous drug environments.**





# Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)



The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution.

They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.

Our Vision:



Healthy, Happy & Safe  
Children



100%

# Children at Risk



2.1 million children  
in the United States live in homes  
where a **parent uses** illicit drugs

## Children at Risk



9.2 million children  
in the United States live in homes  
where a **parent or other adult uses**  
illicit drugs

# Understanding Risk



Children whose parents abuse alcohol or drugs are:

- 3 times more likely to be verbally, physically or sexually abused
- 4 times more likely than other children to be neglected



# Understanding Risk



Children of parents with substance use disorders have a higher likelihood of developing substance use problems themselves.



# Understanding Risk



# Children at Risk



Children + Drugs = RISK

# Understanding Risk



Risk (n.): The chance of something going wrong; the danger that injury, damage or loss will occur.

-Encarta Dictionary of North America

# Understanding Risk



- **All** drug endangered children are **at risk**
- **How much risk** and **risk for what** varies





# CHILDREN AT RISK

[www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)

# Prenatal Risks



Effects of prenatal drug exposure:

- Are difficult to isolate due to:
  - ❖ *poor prenatal care*
  - ❖ *poor nutrition*
  - ❖ *Prematurity*
  - ❖ *adverse postnatal environment*
- Depend on:
  - ❖ *the substance being used*
  - ❖ *frequency of use*
  - ❖ *duration of use*
  - ❖ *Quantity of use*



We have an opportunity to educate professionals and adults on the effects

# Postnatal Risk Examples:

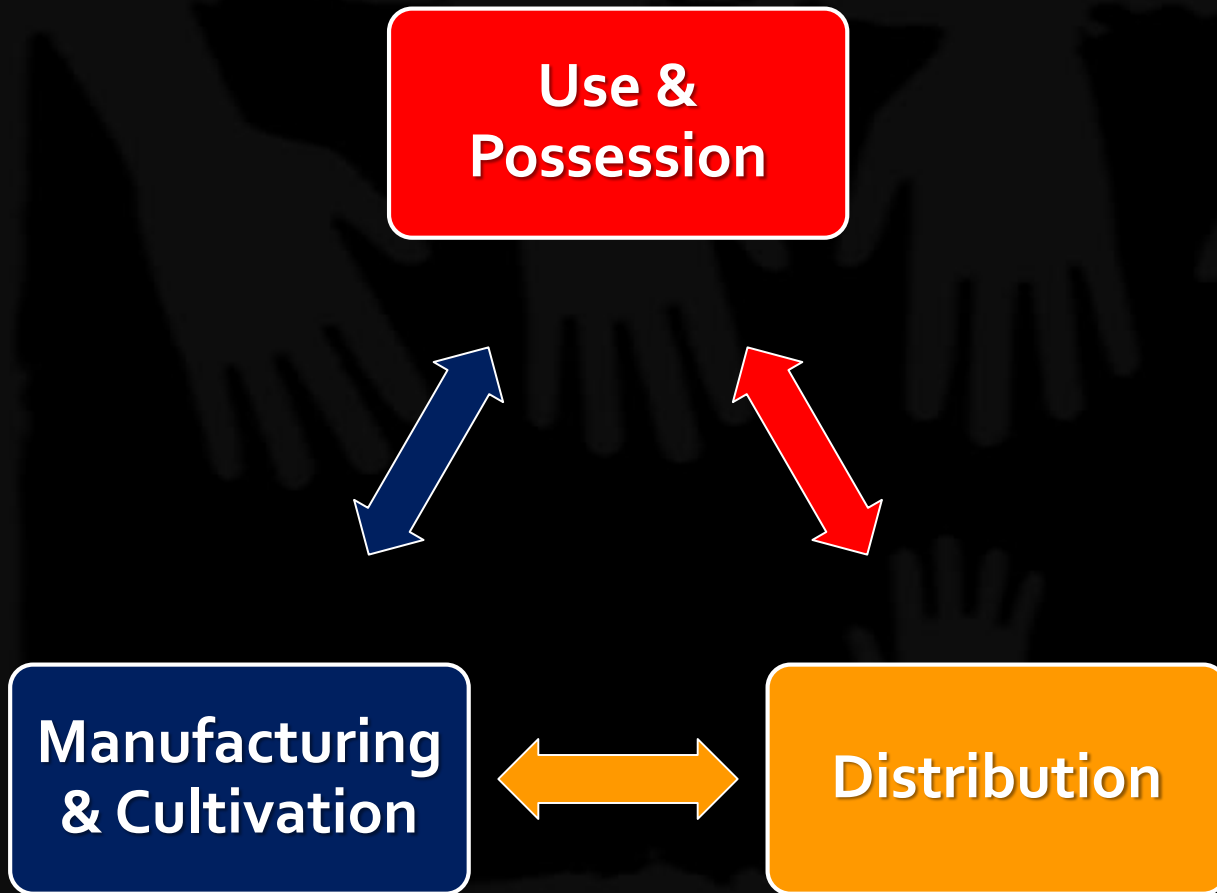


What are some risks of substance abuse and drug activity?

- Environmental Chaos
- Lack of supervision
- Lack of necessities
- Violence/Domestic Violence
- Overlay deaths
- Loss
- Ingestion and Exposure



# Evidence of Harm: Illicit Drug Activities



# Drug Use



**Use &  
Possession**



# Drug Use



## Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulants

- Example:
  - Salt Lake City, UT
  - “Rocking up” crack cocaine
  - Officers entered two bedrooms and discovered these two children behind closed doors



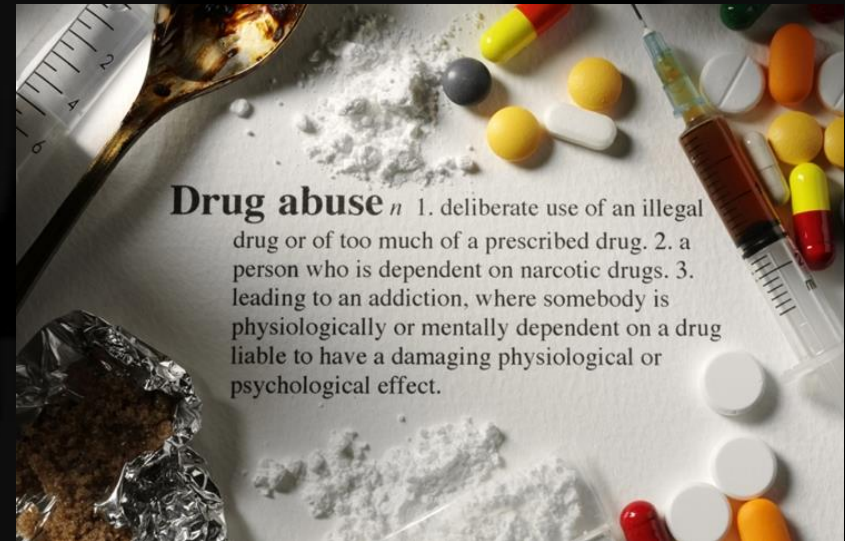
# Drug Use – Indian Country



## Top Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Indicators in Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities for American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN)

### Substance Abuse Indicators

- All substance abuse
- Drug use in pregnancy and associated conditions
- Opioid dependence
- Cocaine dependence
- Other opioid poisoning
- Benzodiazepine poisoning



# Drug Use



## Meth

- Example:
  - methamphetamine posed the greatest threat to Native communities (National Drug Intelligence Center 2014)



Source: Perceptions of Methamphetamine in Indian Country: Interviews with Service Providers in Ten Western Tribes, August 2018



# Drug Use



## Marijuana

- Example:
  - Readily available
  - Synthetics
  - Brought to Reservations
  - Natives selling to Natives



Source: Perceptions of Methamphetamine in Indian Country: Interviews with Service Providers in Ten Western Tribes, August 2018



# Drug Use – Prescription Drugs



Opioid overdose deaths have quadrupled since 1999.

Drug overdoses are the leading cause of death of Americans under 50.

Nearly half of opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription drug.

On average, 91 Americans die each day from an opioid overdose.

Most people who misuse painkillers get them from friends and relatives.

# Drug Use – Prescription Drugs



## *The Most Commonly Abused Opiates*



HEROIN

MORPHINE

CODEINE

FENTANYL

MEPERIDINE

OXYCODONE

HYDROCODONE/DIHYDROCODEINONE

HYDROMORPHONE

OXYMORPHONE

# Drug Use – Heroin



**Heroin use is part of a larger substance abuse problem.**

Nearly all people who used heroin also used at least 1 other drug.

Most used at least **3** other drugs.

**Heroin** is a highly addictive opioid drug with a high risk of overdose and **death** for users.

**People who are addicted to...**



ALCOHOL

are

**2x**



MARIJUANA

are

**3x**



COCAINE

are

**15x**



Rx OPIOID PAINKILLERS

are

**40x**

**...more likely to be addicted to heroin.**

SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2011-2013.

# Drug Use – Prescription Drugs



## What is Opioid Use Disorder?

### Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

Commonly referred to as opioid addiction, OUD is a chronic, relapsing disease that changes **the brain**<sup>1</sup>. OUD is characterized by signs and symptoms reflecting compulsive, prolonged self-administration of opioid substances for no legitimate medical purpose or in doses greatly in excess of the amount needed for a medical condition, despite harmful consequences<sup>2</sup>.



**OUD impacts people from all walks of life<sup>3</sup>.**

# Drug Distribution



**Distribution**



# Drug Distribution



Children become victims of the illicit drug trade in many ways:

- Home invasion
- Abduction
- Ransom
- Drugs transported in children's items
- Children brought to drug buys
- Children used as decoys



# Manufacturing & Cultivation



# Manufacturing & Cultivation

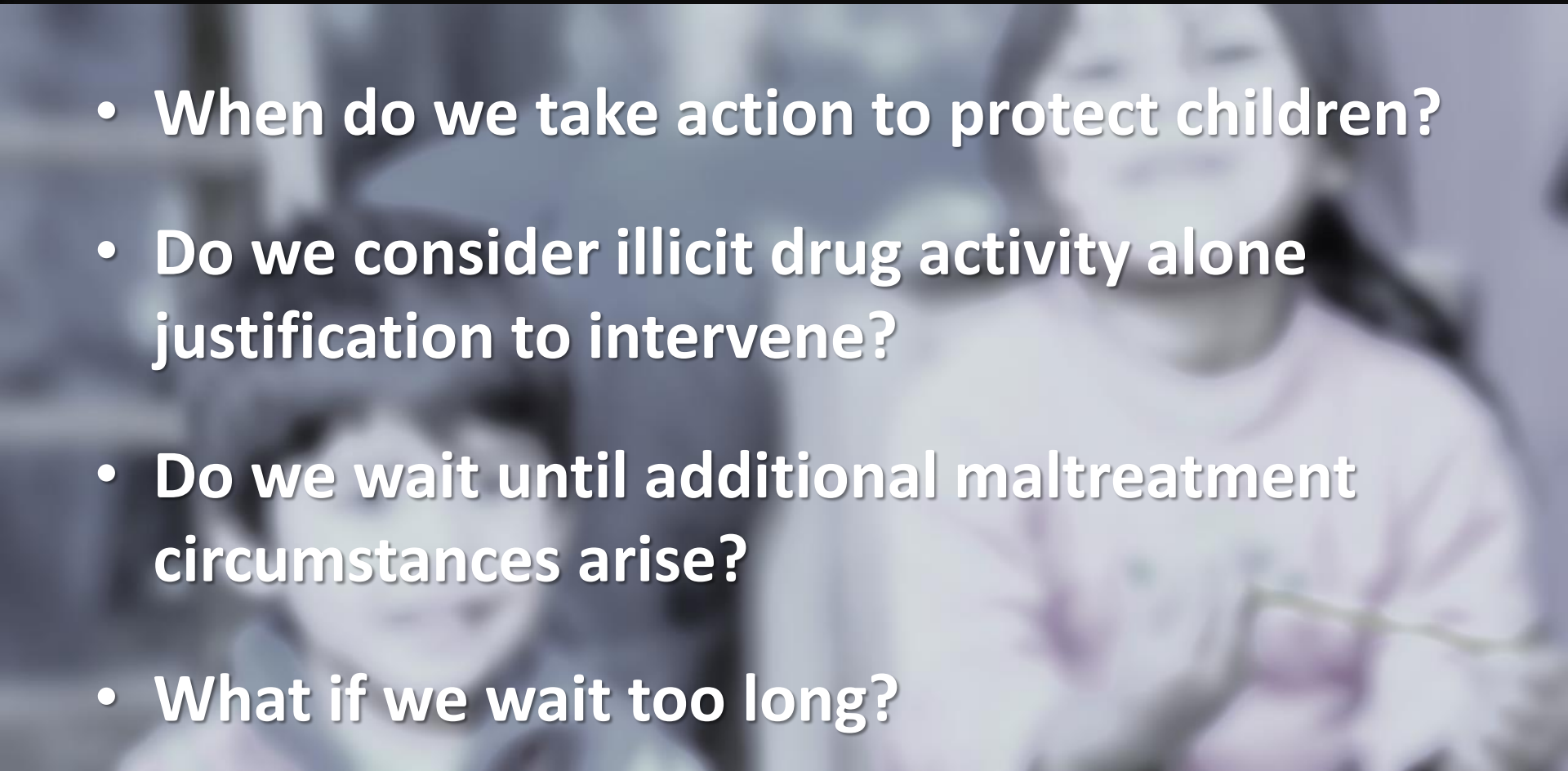


# Manufacturing & Cultivation



# Questions to Ponder

- When do we take action to protect children?
- Do we consider illicit drug activity alone justification to intervene?
- Do we wait until additional maltreatment circumstances arise?
- What if we wait too long?





## How do we get to 100%?

- Understand the long-term needs of drug endangered children
- Implement appropriate and effective intervention strategies

# Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC



Children growing up in drug environments may experience:

- **Emotional problems:** anxiety, PTSD, complex emotions
- **Behavioral problems:** sexually act out, act out what they have seen
- **Cognitive problems:** inability to pick up on social cues, difficulty paying attention, delayed



# Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC



Roe W. Bubar  
Native Studies Scholar  
Colorado State University

# Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC



- On daughter's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, daughter told teacher and school resource officer about drugs in her house.
- SRO advised taskforce of the information
- Task force executed search warrant and discovered meth lab
- Father's first phone call from jail



Courtesy of Eric Nation, Jasper County Sheriff's Office, IA.



# Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC



Dad: Are you there?      **Daughter: Ya**

Dad: How does it feel to know you just sent your dad to prison for a long time?      **Daughter: Sorry**

Dad: No you're not f@%-%#\*\* sorry! You had no business saying this s\*#@ to anybody! All you had to do is say something to me or grandma! What f@%-%#\*\* business did you have going running your f@%-%#\*\* mouth at school?

Daughter: Sorry



Dad: No! No sorry my a\*\*! This is no sorry to it! Answer my question! Why did you go run your f@%-%#\*\* mouth at school?

**Daughter: I had no business**

Dad: No! You didn't have no business! But, thanks to you, I will be spending a lot of time in prison! I'm done talking to you! Bye!



# Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC



- Daughter arrested years later for felony theft
- Daughter has been in and out of the criminal justice system on numerous occasions



# The Importance of Intervention

We ALL have an  
**intervention &  
prevention**  
role to play

*Orphan '00*



# The Importance of Intervention



The **earlier** the intervention, the more efficient and effective the outcome

BUT ... research and clinical trends *also* support the potential for change throughout life



# The Importance of Intervention



ACEs = ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

*The three types of ACEs include*

ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

NEGLECT



Physical



Emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Mother treated violently



Divorce



Incarcerated Relative



Substance Abuse

# The Importance of Intervention



In other words...

It is never too early to intervene...

*AND*

It is never too late to intervene!



# The Importance of Intervention



Moving children from

**RISK to RESILIENCY**



# Collaborative Mindset

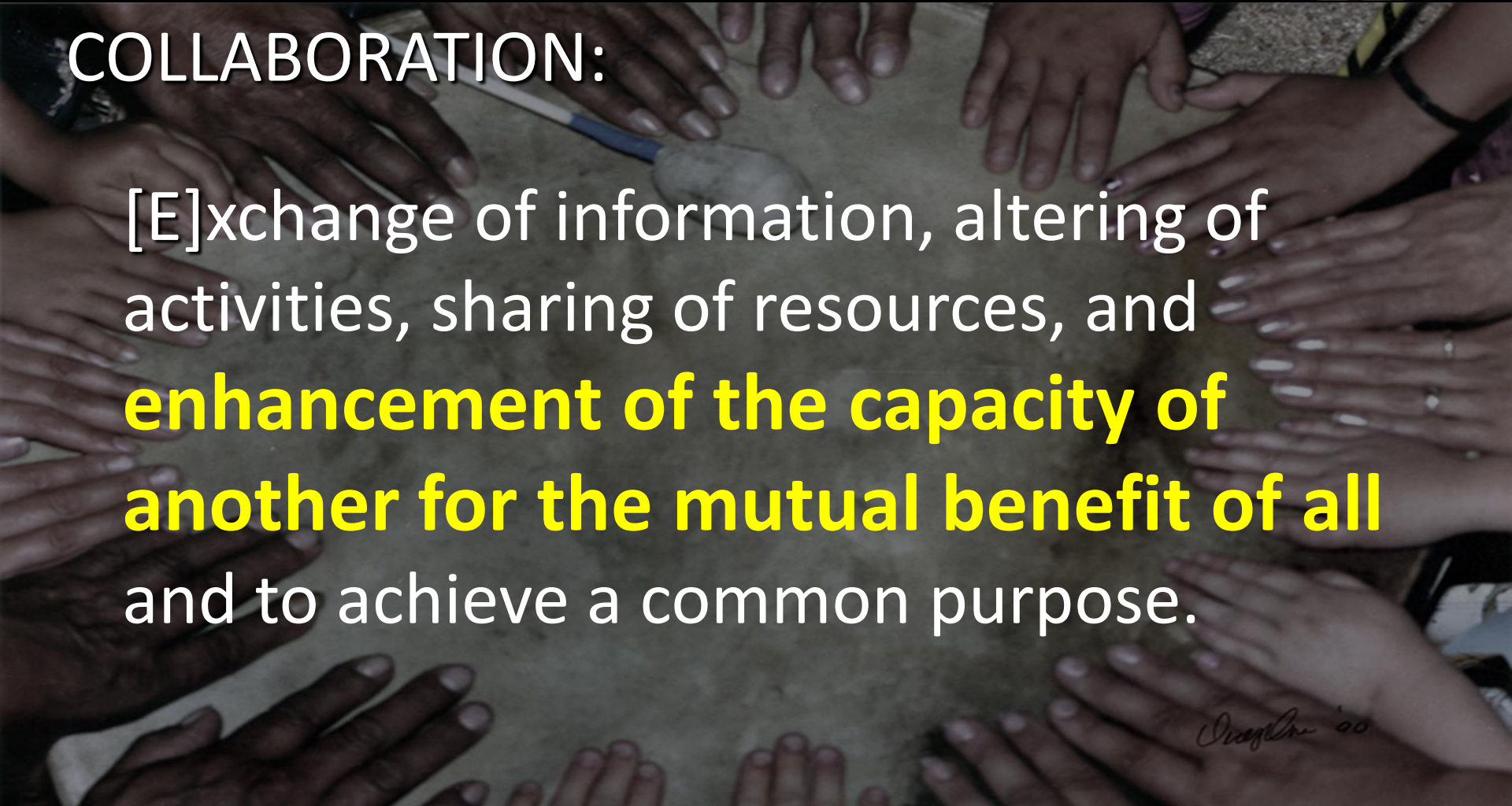


# Collaborative Mindset



## COLLABORATION:

[E]xchange of information, altering of activities, sharing of resources, and **enhancement of the capacity of another for the mutual benefit of all** and to achieve a common purpose.



# Collaborative Mindset



- What we know already:

*Collaboration is challenging*

- What we may not know:

*WHY collaboration is challenging*

# Collaborative Mindset



*WHY* collaboration is challenging:

- Competing goals
- Relationship issues
- Control issues
- Differing values
- Helplessness
- Un-channeled passion/energy



# Collaborative Mindset



Law Enforcement

Child Protective  
Services

Judicial

Medical

Drug Treatment

Education



# Collaborative Mindset



Law Enforcement

Child Protective  
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Education

DEC





# Collaborative Mindset



# Collaborative Mindset



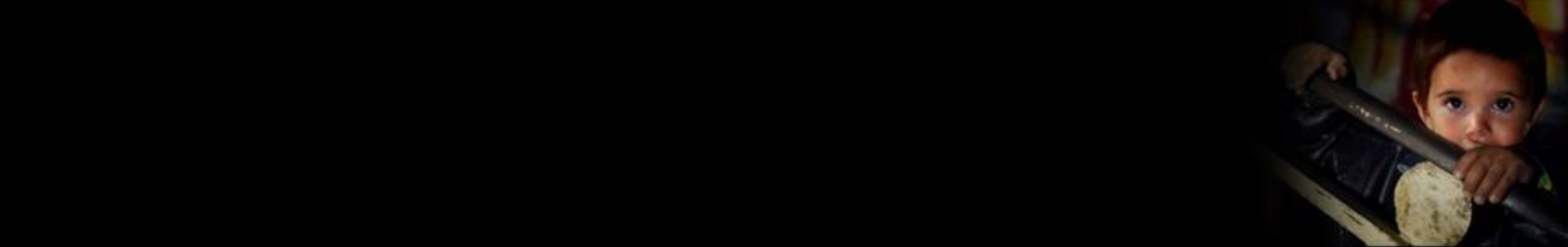
A collaborative strategy requires a deep awareness of what each system has to offer and is willing to share

# Collaborative Mindset

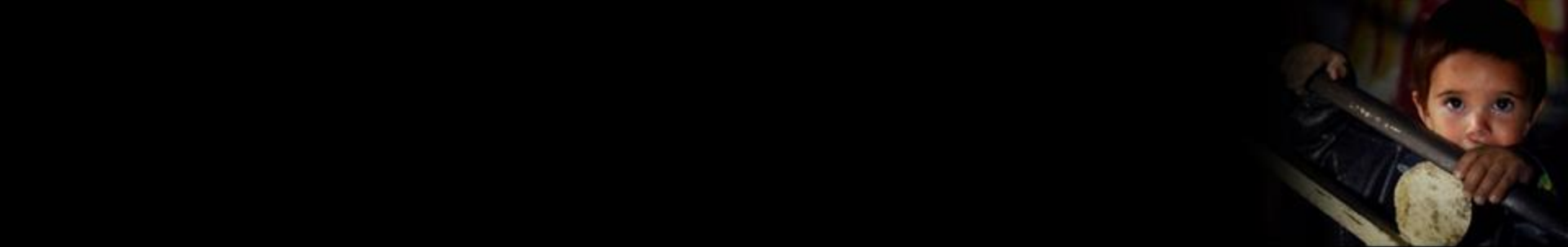


Break the cycle of abuse &  
neglect for the next  
generation





Do we let children accept this reality?



Or do we change the status quo?

# Changing the Status Quo



# Changing the Status Quo



## Drugs in the Media

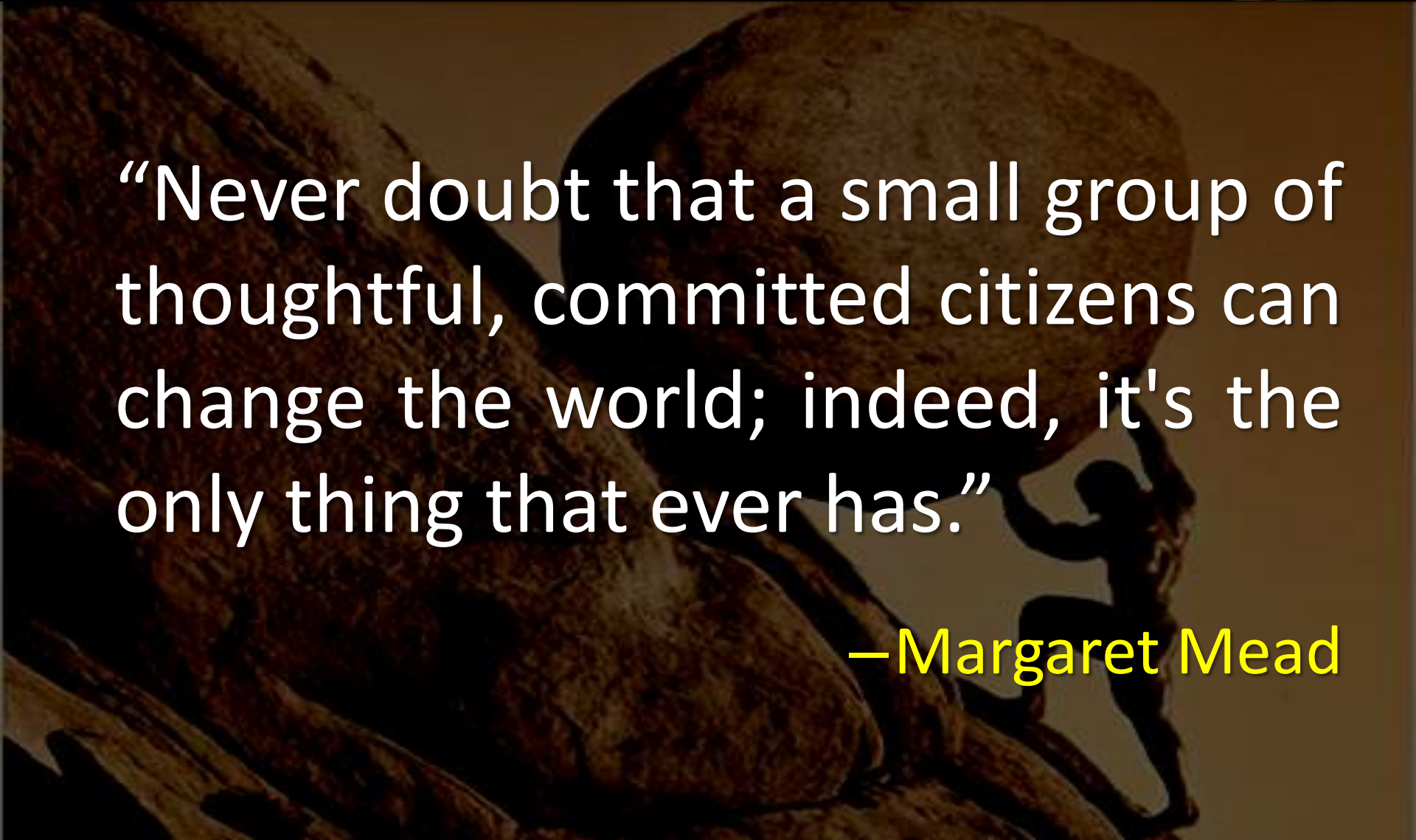
- Scarface (1983)
- Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998)
- Super Troopers (2001)
- American Gangster (2007)
- Pineapple Express (2008)
- Limitless (2011)
  
- The Wire (2002-2008)
- Breaking Bad (2008-2013)



# Changing the Status Quo

A young child with dark hair is peering over a horizontal metal bar, looking directly at the camera. The child is wearing a dark jacket and a light-colored circular object is visible on the bar.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

A silhouette of a person is shown carrying a large, heavy rock on their back. The person is walking up a steep, rocky incline. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a large rock formation.

—Margaret Mead

# Changing the Status Quo




- Candice Lightner, MADD Founder



- Sept 1980: MADD incorporates
- End of 1980: MADD grows to 11 chapters
- 1982: MADD grows to 100 chapters; participates in drunk driving commission at President Reagan's request
- 1983: 129 new anti-drunk driving laws passed
- 1984: Uniform drinking age raised to 21; MADD grows to 330 chapters in 47 states
- 2000: Congress makes .08 BAC the national illegal limit for impaired driving
- TODAY: More than 300,000 lives saved and more than 50,000 victims served





**Believe in the  
future and  
create the  
reality**

*Orphan '00*



Our Vision:

Healthy, Happy & Safe  
Children

100%





If we leave here  
today and do  
nothing different,  
*nothing* will change.

**WE CAN** make a  
difference...to  
change the  
trajectory of drug  
endangered  
children's lives



# National DEC Offers:



- Online Resource Center: articles, publications, example MOU's and protocols (more than 1,500)
- National Network of over 10,000 professionals
- Monthly newsletter via eupdate
- Monthly DEC Connect Call
- Technical Assistance: in person, email, phone, webinar, etc.
- Experience and knowledgeable staff
- National DEC Conference

- In Person Training:
  - ❖ Core DEC Awareness Training
  - ❖ The DEC Approach Training
  - ❖ Local DEC Development Training
  - ❖ Drug Identification and Drug Trends
  - ❖ Train the Trainer Trainings
  - ❖ Other
- Online Tribal DEC Training: 4 modules currently
- Monthly and archived Webinars



# Thank You

[www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)



**Ahéhee'**

**(Thank You)**

Jacque Gencarelle, 360 Community Outreach Specialist  
Drug Enforcement Agency - Contractor